

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 OIC-02 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01
CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08
EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07
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C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3484

EO 11652: GDS
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SUBJECT: GOM VIEWS ON LAW OF THE SEA

REF A. STATE 131424, B. STATE 134431

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MFA LEGAL AND TREATIES AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
MUSTAPHA GHARBI JUNE 7 TO ELICIT REACTIONS TO AMBASSADOR
RICHARDSON'S MAY 22 STATEMENT AND TO URGE HIGH-LEVEL GOM
ATTENDANCE AT AUGUST LOS MEETING IN NEW YORK.

2. AUGUST SESSION. GHARBI GAVE ASSURANCES THAT GOM INTENDED TO
PARTICIPATE FULLY IN AUGUST SESSION AND THAT HE WOULD AGAIN
LEAD GOM DELEGATION. HE REMARKED THAT THE LAST SESSION HAD
BROUGHT THE PARTICIPANTS "PAST THE POINT OF NO RETURN," AND
HE FELT CONFIDENT THAT A COMPREHENSIVE LOS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE
REALIZED.

3. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S MAY 22 STATEMENT HAD BEEN "SOOTHING,"
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GHARBI SAID WITH A SMILE TO SHOW THAT EUPHEMISM WAS INTENDED.
LATER IN THE CONVERSATION, HE REMARKED THAT HE HAD FELT THE
U.S. DELEGATION AT GENEVA HAD BEEN "SITTING BACK" SOMEWHAT, AL-
THOUGH WE HAD BEEN AS ACTIVE AS USUAL IN COMMITTEE I. HE SAID THAT
OUR DELEGATION SEEMED TO BE MORE THINLY STAFFED, AND NOTED THAT
NO CONGRESSMEN WERE ON THE GENEVA DELEGATION. AMBASSADOR
RICHARDSON HAD EVEN ABSENTED HIMSELF FOR PART OF THE SESSION.

GCHARBI ACKNOWLEDGED EMBOFF'S INTERJECTION THAT AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON HAD HAD TO TESTIFY BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DURING THIS ABSENCE. IN LATER REMARKS, GCHARBI VOICED GREAT SATISFACTION OVER HIS WORK WITH PROFESSOR SOHN OF USDEL, WHOM HE CLEARLY ADMIRES.

4. STRAITS. IN DISCUSSING THE TALKS, GCHARBI WENT STRAIGHT TO THE SUBJECT OF STRAITS. THE GOM WANTED A "STABLE" STRAITS REGIME, HE SAID, AND FOR THIS REASON HE HAD MADE NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO COUNTER WHAT HE SAID WERE EVEN MORE UNPALATABLE (TO THE US) PROPOSALS FROM OTHER STATES. SAFETY AND NAVIGATION HAD TO BE ADDRESSED MORE SATISFACTORILY, HE SAID, REPEATING THEMES HE HAS FREQUENTLY PURSUED IN THE PAST. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOM WAS THE ONLY STRAITS STATE WHICH FULLY ACCEPTED UNIMPEDED PASSAGE IN THE AIR OVER STRAITS. SPAIN, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD POSED PROBLEMS IN THIS RESPECT, AND HE NOTED THAT MANY OF SPAIN'S STRAITS PROPOSALS WERE DESIGNED TO INSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO CEUTA.

5. SOVIETS. THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN MOST ANXIOUS TO INDUCE THE GOM NOT TO UPSET THE ICNT ON THE STRAITS, AND HAD EVEN PROPOSED SOME BILATERAL "DEALS" BOTH IN THE LOS TALKS AND DURING SEPARATE MOROCCAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS OVER THEIR FISHING TREATY. GCHARBI SAID THAT THE GOM HAD REFUSED TO RISE TO THESE SOVIET OFFERS, THE NATURE OF WHICH HE DID NOT REVEAL.

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6. "DISCUSSION" WITH SPANISH. GCHARBI REVEALED THAT "DISCUSSIONS" HAD BEEN INITIATED WITH THE SPANISH TO DELINEATE MOROCCO'S ATLANTIC WATERS WITH RESPECT TO THE CANARIES. HE DID NOT REVEAL THE FREQUENCY OR THE LEVEL AT WHICH THESE "DISCUSSIONS" WERE TAKING PLACE, BUT HE REMARKED THAT THE GOM HAD INSISTED THAT A "CANARIES REPRESENTATIVE" BE INCLUDED ON THE SPANISH SIDE IN VIEW OF "INTERNAL TRENDS" IN SPAIN. SETTLEMENT OF THE MEDIAN LINE OFF TARFAYA WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO THE GOM, AS IT ENCOMPASSED THE ONLY AREA WHERE THE GOM ENTERTAINED SERIOUS HOPES FOR FINDING OIL. HE SAID THAT THE GOM HAD HAD TO WITHDRAW AN EXPLORATION PERMIT IT HAD ISSUED FOR THE AREA BECAUSE THIS ISSUE REMAINED UNSETTLED.

7. 200-MILE LIMIT. THERE WERE CURRENTLY TWO BILLS UNDER STUDY IN COMMITTEE IN THE PARLIAMENT WHICH ENVISIONED EXTENSION OF MOROCCO'S ECONOMIC ZONE TO 200 MILES. ONE OF THESE BILLS WAS A GOVERNMENT BILL, THE OTHER, HAD BEEN SUBMITTED BY AN OPPOSITION (USFP) DEPUTY.

8. COMMENT: WE WERE UNAWARE THAT SUCH BILLS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED AND WILL ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN THEIR CONTENTS. GIVEN THE UNSETTLED STATUS OF THE MOROCCAN-CANARIES WATERS, IT SEEMS LIKELY

THAT THE BILLS ARE SUFFICIENTLY GENERAL TO CONFORM TO ANY
EVENTUAL BILATERAL -- AND LOS -- ACCORD, GHARBI HAD TOLD US
LAST FALL THAT THE GOM WOULD PROBABLY BE GOING TO A 200-MILE
LIMIT THIS SPRING. HE WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON TIMING DURING
THIS MEETING.
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